

3. SURVEY DESIGN

Because the 1991 HIES was the first such study conducted in Palau, and because of the central role that resulting data would play in planning efforts, survey design was absolutely crucial to the success of the project. Senior HIES personnel considered several goals when designing the data collection phase of the project. The survey had to provide data which would enable comparisons between Palau and other nations as well as between the various states in the republic. The survey also had to provide a broad range of economic and demographic baseline data which would enable comparisons with future income and expenditures surveys. The HIES had to provide planners with data which would allow them to assess the ramifications of various development programs and measure how successful various programs have been. Finally, the survey had to provide data

necessary to evaluate economic trends in the republic, for national and state accounts and for the forthcoming development plan.

The 1991 HIES used the geographic divisions employed in the 1990 Census of Population and Housing. The project began by selecting at random a house in each of the 14 states covered by the survey, using maps employed in the 1990 census, and subsequently selected every fourth house for inclusion in the HIES. Through this method, the OPS chose 706 households for the 1-in-4 sample and 353 households for the 1-in-8 diary sample. The actual numbers of households included in the HIES were slightly less than these targets (587 and 304, respectively), due to vacant units discovered too late for replacement in the study and assorted other enumeration problems. Enumerators visited every house in the sample, obtaining demographic, social, and economic information as well as data on major and regular expenditures. In addition, enumerators distributed two-week diaries to every eighth household, designed to collect data on short-term expenditures.

Project personnel did not stratify the sample used in the 1991 HIES, both because the census mapping was quite accurate and because of the small sample size in many of the states examined. Despite the small numbers, the data collected are sufficient to permit an analysis for the republic as a whole and for most individual states. Although some changes in housing occurred between the 1990 census and the 1991 HIES, the changes were minimal and thus not incorporated in the sampling frame. Because of transportation problems, the survey did not include Sonsorol (1990 population 61 in 11 occupied housing units) or Hatothobei (1990 population 22 in 4 occupied housing units) states (see U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1992:Table 99); the survey did include individuals from these states living elsewhere in Palau, as the survey was based on *usual residence*.